

to fill out a modified W-4 form at work whereby his employer would withdraw the exact tax obligation at the single low rate of 15 percent. What a relief it would be for those folks who qualify to be free from the yearly burden of trying to decipher the federal tax code.

Taxpayers who elect to participate in this program would still benefit from the current standard tax deduction, as well as personal exemptions, child care credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit and a deduction for home mortgage interest expenses and property taxes. Thus, employees would experience the best of both worlds—the current tax system's generous deduction and credit system for working families, as well as a simplified tax system. This bill also provides generous savings incentives by exempting up to \$5,000 of all interest, dividends and capital income from taxes.

Taxpayers who do not participate in the FASST program would also benefit from provisions in the FASST Act. First, this act reduces the marriage penalty, and provides an exemption from the Alternative Minimum Tax for many sole proprietors and small businesses. In addition, all taxpayers would be eligible to receive a 50 percent credit for up to \$200 in tax preparer expenses if they file their taxes electronically. And again, there is a substantial incentive for savings and investment as up to \$500 of dividend and interest income is exempt for individuals. The FASST Act is good for all taxpayers.

I believe that the FASST Act provides much needed reform to our tax system. Our current federal tax code is immense, complex, and confusing. It has become a burden on the American taxpayer. The FASST Act takes a much-needed first step toward providing a simpler, friendlier means of collecting taxes from our hard-working citizens. I am pleased to join with my fellow Senators from North Dakota and Illinois in introducing the Fast and Simple Shortcut Tax Act today.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the last several months, many of us here in the Senate have been urging our colleagues to pass sensible gun laws. Each year, more than 30,000 Americans are killed by gunfire (an average of 10 children and adolescents and 74 adult Americans each day) and until we act, thousands more will be lost to gun violence.

Those of us who are committed to this issue have pledged to read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

September 21, 1999:

Colden Hurt, 28, Baltimore, MD;  
Troy Jones, 32, Washington, DC;  
Billy Peaks, 23, Chicago, IL;  
Roland Shepard, 56, Philadelphia, PA;

Charles Walker, 17, St. Louis, MO;  
Omar Williams, 24, Memphis, TN;  
Jessie Williamson, 42, Memphis, TN.

We cannot allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a painful reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation today.

#### OBJECTION TO CHANGES IN FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. I rise today to notify my colleagues that I have notified the Majority Leader that I will object to any changes to the False Claims Act whether in bill or amendment form.

#### VISA WAIVER PILOT PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the majority to lift its hold on H.R. 3767, which would permanently authorize the visa waiver pilot program. I am a cosponsor of the Senate version of this legislation, which will achieve the important goal of making our visa waiver program permanent. We have had a visa waiver pilot project for more than a decade, and it has been a tremendous success in allowing residents of some of our most important allies to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa, and in allowing American citizens to travel to those countries without visas. Countries must meet a number of requirements to participate in the program, including having extraordinarily low rates of visa refusals. Of course, the visa waiver does not affect the need for international travelers to carry valid passports.

The visa waiver pilot program expired on April 30. The House passed legislation to make the program permanent before that deadline. But the Senate failed to meet this deadline, and the Administration was forced to extend it administratively. Since then, the Senate has missed deadline after deadline, and has had to rely on the grace of the Administration for this program—which is relied upon by thousands of American travelers every year—to continue.

Every Democratic Senator has cleared this bill. But the majority has refused to clear it, even five months after it passed the House and the statutory authorization for this program expired. Earlier in the year, some members had substantive concerns about the bill. Those have been rectified. I am unaware of any remaining substantive objections to this legislation, and it is now well past time to pass it. Passing it will not require any floor debate or roll call vote. It simply requires Senators to life their holds.

This is a bill that benefits American travelers from every State and the tourism industry in every State. It is not a Democratic bill or a Republican bill. It is not a regional bill. It is simply a good, common-sense bill that deserves the Senate's support. There has been too much stalling on this bill already—we should act today.

#### RENAMING OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, tomorrow will be a special day for the State of Missouri. Tomorrow, President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will hold a ceremony to officially rename the U.S. State Department Headquarters as The Harry S Truman Federal Building.

I am pleased to have played a role in the renaming of the State Department in honor of one of Missouri's most famous sons—President Truman. Last spring, I introduced a bill, S. 2416, to designate the headquarters for the Department of State, as the "Harry S. Truman Federal Building". The House's companion legislation, H.R. 3639, sponsored by Missouri Congressmen IKE SKELTON and ROY BLUNT, passed the Senate on June 8th and was signed by the President on June 20, 2000. Secretary of State Albright was supportive of this effort from the beginning, and I thank her. In addition, I would like to thank the Senators who cosponsored this bill, Senators BOND, BOXER, BYRD, DEWINE, HAGEL, MOYNIHAN, ROBERTS, and WARNER.

Born in Lamar, Missouri, Harry S Truman was a farmer, a national guardsman, a World War I veteran, a local postmaster, a road overseer, and a small business owner before turning to politics. Through these traditional experiences, he gained the courage, honesty, and dedication to freedom required of a great leader. Joining the Senate in 1935, Truman fought against government waste and saved the U.S. Government \$15 billion as Chairman of the Senate War Investigating committee. Ten years later, Harry S Truman became Franklin D. Roosevelt's Vice President. Four short months later, Truman assumed the presidency after Roosevelt's untimely death, and remarked to reporters: "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me." Although Truman might have felt unprepared, he rose to the challenge with typical Missourian resolve and changed the face of history. President Truman went on to become one of the most influential presidents of the modern era. His leadership and character, especially in the area of foreign policy, have earned him well-deserved praise and respect throughout the world. The life, character, and freedom-loving values of this great Missourian are honored by countless millions.